

I CLAIM:

1. A rotatable finger assembly for use in spacing, separating or supporting one or more articles comprising:

5 a plurality of independently rotatable fingers mounted about a common axis, each said finger being rotatable between a first position wherein a surface of the finger is engageable with a surface of one of said articles and a second position wherein said surface of the finger is pivoted away from said surface of said one of said articles.

10 2. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said finger has a second surface engageable with a surface of an adjacent article and wherein when said finger is rotated to said second position, said second surface is pivoted away from said surface of said adjacent article.

15 3. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein said surface of said finger has a profile which conforms substantially to the profile of said surface of one of said articles.

4. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first position of each finger is angularly the same as every other said finger.

5. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 4, further comprising stop means for limiting rotation of each finger between said first and second positions.

20 6. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein said fingers are mounted about said common axis on a finger mount having a central aperture through which a central shaft is disposed.

7. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein said central shaft has a longitudinal spline and said aperture of said finger mount has an internal recess extending partially circumferentially therein in which said spline is circumferentially moveable.

5 8. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein said aperture of said finger mount includes a first longitudinally extending groove at one extent of said recess in which said spline is lockingly engageable when said finger is in said first position.

10 9. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein said aperture of said finger mount includes a second longitudinally extending groove at the opposite extent of said recess in which said spline is lockingly engageable when said finger is in said second position.

15 10. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first and second longitudinally extending grooves are spaced-apart circumferentially more than 90°.

11. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein said fingers are removable from said finger mounts for replacement with fingers having different surface profiles for accommodating different shaped articles.

20 12. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a spacer positioned between one or more adjacent pairs of finger mounts.

13. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein all said fingers have the same shape.

14. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein one or more of said fingers each has a slot for engaging an edge of one of said articles.

15. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein adjacent fingers are shaped to accommodate a portion of one of said articles therebetween when said fingers are in said first position.

16. The rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein two or more fingers are joined to provide a supporting surface for one or more of said articles.

17. A transportation or shipping package comprising one or more pairs of rotatable finger assemblies as claimed in claim 16 used for spacing, separating and/or supporting said one or more articles contained therein, said pair being disposed on opposite inner walls of said package.

18. A transportation or shipping package comprising at least one rotatable finger assembly as claimed in claim 1 used for spacing, separating and/or supporting said one or more articles contained therein.

19. The transportation or shipping package as claimed in claim 18 wherein said at least one rotatable finger assembly is positioned horizontally along an inner vertical wall of said transportation or shipping package.

20. The transportation or shipping package as claimed in claim 18, further comprising one or more fixed spacers adjacent said at least one rotatable finger assembly against which each of said one or more articles are braced.